



# 2003

# Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices



**Application Deadline: June 6, 2003**

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## **What is the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices?**

Each year the Governor of Washington presents the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices. This award goes to organizations and businesses that have shown leadership in preventing pollution and moving toward sustainability while accomplishing their own objectives.

This competitive award recognizes those who have found ways to offer their products and services while reducing or eliminating the use of toxic materials, preventing waste, reducing emissions to the air and discharges to water, and conserving natural resources. They demonstrate excellence through their commitment to environmental quality and leadership through their willingness to share their knowledge with the broader community.

The Governor will present the awards to the winners at a ceremony in October. The Department of Ecology will publicize the winners throughout the state and to media outlets selected by the winners.

## **Who can apply for this award?**

Any Washington business, organization, agency, or school is eligible. Applicants must be in good standing with environmental regulations. Previous compliance issues will not disqualify an applicant, but they must be resolved to the satisfaction of the Department of Ecology.

## **What is the award based on?**

The award is given to those applicants that best demonstrate:

- **Comprehensive** and **successful** efforts to prevent pollution and incorporate sustainable practices into their operations; and
- **Innovation, leadership** and **commitment** in these efforts.

## **What do we mean by Pollution Prevention?**

"Pollution prevention" is reducing or eliminating waste as close as possible to the source. Pollution prevention strives to use raw materials, water, energy and other resources more efficiently, and to reduce the use and emission of toxic substances. The best form of pollution prevention is not creating the waste in the first place ("beginning of the pipe"), rather than trying to figure out what to do with it after it occurs ("end of the pipe").

## **What do we mean by Sustainable Practices?**

"Sustainable practices" are eliminating the use of substances that persist in the environment and reducing or eliminating the negative environmental impacts of a product or process from the supply chain through to the use or disposal of a product. Sustainability, an even broader goal, promotes choices that do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It focuses attention on the interdependence of the environment, the economy, and the community.

## **What actions can show pollution prevention and sustainable practices?**

A wide range of actions prevent pollution and promote sustainability. To qualify for the award, you could:

- Reduce or eliminate the use of toxic materials.
- Reduce or eliminate persistent, bio-accumulative toxic materials (such as mercury or PCBs).
- Reduce or eliminate solid or hazardous waste at the source.
- Reduce or eliminate discharges to air or water at the source.
- Increase the use of renewable and recycled materials.
- Reduce energy use or use renewable energy sources.
- Reduce water use.
- Provide take-back programs (manufacturer or retailer takes back consumer products at the end of their useful life for refurbishing, reuse, or materials recovery).
- Minimize the environmental impact of a product throughout its life cycle.
- Provide products and services that have a positive benefit to society and the environment.

## What will make my application more compelling?

**Measure** your results and your efforts. If you reduced something, show the before and after figures and the time it took to achieve that reduction. If you've changed your business practices, show what you did before, what you're doing now, and measure the difference that has made.

Show that your efforts are **comprehensive**, that you have looked at every aspect of your operations and are striving to "squeeze the last drop of environmental benefit" from them.

Show how you have **shared** your knowledge and expertise with others in your field (leadership), how you have found **new ways** of achieving your objectives (innovation), and the **breadth and depth of support** for pollution prevention and sustainable practices in your organization (commitment).

## Where can I get help in developing my application?

Guidelines are available on the Governor's Award Program Website or by contacting the Governor's Award Coordinator. The guidelines provide helpful tips on how to most effectively present your accomplishments.

There is a wealth of information available on pollution prevention and sustainability. Check the Web and your local library, or contact the toxics reduction technical assistance staff in the Ecology office nearest you or the Governor's Award Coordinator in Olympia.

## How do I apply?

Complete the application form and submit three copies to the Governor's Award Coordinator at the Department of Ecology by June 6, 2003. Applications can be in hard copy or electronic format. Application forms are available from the Governor's Award Coordinator or on the Governor's Award Program Website. You can complete the electronic form on-line at the Web site, download it and send it as an e-mail attachment, or print it off and send it as a hard copy.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY JUNE 6, 2003.  
NO EXCEPTIONS.**

If you are submitting a paper application, please make sure your three copies are clean, clear and easily-reproducible, printed on white paper, double-sided (if possible), with numbered pages, and unbound.

## What do I put in my application?

1. Complete the application cover page. This is the information we will use to contact you, so please make sure it is correct.
2. Complete the overview. Please be brief. You may expand on this information in the rest of your application.
3. Answer the four general application questions:
  - What **benefits** have you achieved through your pollution prevention efforts and sustainable practices?
  - Were your efforts new or different (i.e., **innovative**) than what is commonly practiced in your field?
  - What **leadership and commitment** have you shown?
  - Other **information**?

Give as much detail as you can to assist the judges in making their selections. You may cross-reference your answers to avoid repeating large chunks of text.

Your application should be no more than 2 ½ pages, double-sided (five pages if single-sided). You may include any activities from the past three years.

You may include up to ten additional pages of supporting material with your application. (Please note on the application cover page that you will be submitting attachments.)

## Who selects the winners?

Department of Ecology staff first review the applications to verify compliance with environmental regulations and general quality of performance. This may include a site visit. Finalists are forwarded to a panel of judges for the final determination. The judges include previous winners, pollution prevention and sustainability experts, and representatives from labor and environmental groups.

## When will the winners be notified?

Winners will be notified by September 10, 2003. The award ceremony will be October 9, 2003, in Olympia, WA.

## 2002 Governor's Award Winners



Each winner of the 2002 award received a personalized trophy of cobalt blue glass, made from 100% post-consumer recycled material. Amazing Recycled Products, Inc. of Colorado provided the awards, which were manufactured by Sterling Glass Designs, Inc. of British Columbia.



printed on recycled paper, using vegetable-based inks

*If you need this publication in alternate format, call (360) 407-6700 (voice), dial 711, or call (800) 833-6388 (TTY).*

## Overview

Please give a **brief** description of your business or organization and summarize your pollution prevention efforts and sustainable practices (see “What Actions Can Show Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices?” section). Include any environmental awards you have received and when you received them.

## Application Questions

In answering questions 1-4, remember to think of the “beginning of the pipe” and throughout the process instead of the “end of the pipe.” (For example, a newspaper might consider recycling the chemicals used in developing photos, but if they switch to digital cameras they avoid having to use the chemicals at all. Also, they lower the health risks for their employees and may decrease the disposal costs for their waste. It might also mean a change in waste generator status, resulting in less administrative time spent tracking the waste.)

### 1. What benefits have you achieved through your pollution prevention efforts and sustainable practices?

**Environmental Benefits** – What positive environmental results have come from your efforts? Did you conserve resources; reduce or prevent hazardous waste or discharges; “close the loop” on your processes, etc.? Please provide both **quantitative** and **qualitative** information.

**Economic Benefits** – What have been the financial rewards of your efforts? Did you increase profits through reducing waste; eliminate disposal fees; develop new markets, etc.?

**Employee Benefits** – How have your employees/volunteers benefited? Have you seen an increase in worker satisfaction, worker safety, or health?

**Community Benefits** – How have your efforts contributed to your community’s quality of life? Did your enterprise participate in school programs; make charitable contributions to social programs; etc.?

### 2. Were your efforts new or different (i.e., innovative) from what is commonly practiced in your field?

Why do you consider your program to be innovative? Describe the barriers or challenges that you overcame to achieve your goals. If you feel that yours is an environmentally superior product or service, tell us why.

### 3. What leadership and commitment have you shown?

How does your enterprise demonstrate environmental leadership? How has your management shown an environmental commitment? What employee participation and community involvement has occurred? How have you mentored others or shared your knowledge of pollution prevention and sustainable practices with your wider community, industry, or association? How do your activities promote “environmental justice” (the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and risk among diverse economic and cultural communities)?

### 4. Other information

Describe any other accomplishments that are relevant to this award.

Send your completed application in care of Mariann Cook Andrews to:

☐ Email: [maco461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:maco461@ecy.wa.gov)

☐ Fax: (360) 407-6715

☐ Mail: Department of Ecology, HWTR  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia WA 98504-7600

☐ UPS, Fed Ex, etc:

Department of Ecology, HWTR  
300 Desmond Drive  
Lacey WA 98503

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# The 2003 Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices

Application Form, page 1

## Application Cover Page

Please complete this cover page and submit it with your responses to the Overview section and the Application Questions. (See other side.) Your overview and responses to the questions should not exceed 2 ½ double-sided pages (five pages single-sided). You may attach up to ten pages of supplementary material, such as data tables, graphs, and news articles.

Company/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Product/Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Location address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied for this award previously? If so, what year(s)?

*If you have won the award before, you may reapply, but you should clearly identify the year you won and your achievements since then.*

Are you submitting attachments? If so, are they included with the application or will they be sent separately?

Are you a commercial or a not-for-profit enterprise?

How many employees/regular volunteers does your enterprise have?

If someone other than the applicant (above) completed this application, please provide the following, so we may contact them if we have questions:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*By applying, applicants grant permission to the Washington State Department of Ecology to publish a summary of their accomplishments.*



*If you need this form in alternate format, call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700 (voice), dial 711, or call (800) 833-6388  
Department of Ecology Form # ECY 070-80*